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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,854	11/13/2003	Hidegori Gotoh	Q78422	4889

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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

SCHILLING, RICHARD L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1752

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/705,854

Applicant(s)

GOTOH, HIDENORI

Examiner

Richard L. Schilling

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11-13-03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under Section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or (e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hatakeyama '904. Hatakeyama is available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102, paragraphs (a) and (e). The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 using Hatakeyama as a 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) reference may be overcome by a statement from applicants' attorney that Hatakeyama and the instant application were subject to common assignment at the time the invention was made. Hatakeyama (see particularly column 2, line 52 - column 3, line 55; column 4, lines 22-30) discloses photosensitive transfer materials comprising temporary supports, thermoplastic resin layers, intermediate layers and sensitive resin layers. The thermoplastic resin layers comprise thermoplastic resins including acrylic resins and polyester resins. Hatakeyama discloses that the resins are preferably used in combination. It would be obvious to one skilled in the art to use the polyester resins disclosed as suitable thermoplastic resins in Hatakeyama in combination with other thermoplastic resins for the thermoplastic resin layer in the photosensitive transfer materials in Hatakeyama. The comparative Examples in the specification are noted but are unconvincing since they are not commensurate in scope with the claimed subject matter. The comparisons show unexpected results for particular photosensitive

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transfer materials containing particular polyester resins in thermoplastic layers at concentrations of 20-90% by weight. However, the Examples in the specification are limited to using crystalline polyethylene terephthalate polyester resins in Example 1 with the other examples using unspecified polyesters. The comparisons in the specification are also limited to using thermoplastic resin layers comprising a combination of thermoplastic resins as set forth by the combination of instant claims 8 and 9. The comparisons in the specification are also limited to using polyesters with preferred molecular weights of 1500 to 35,000. The photosensitive transfer materials used in the comparative Examples in the specification are also limited to those containing intermediate layers comprising a mixture of polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl pyrrolidone. The instant claims include any polyester resins and any thermoplastic resins and any intermediate layers.

2. Sato et al. '613 and Sato et al. '516 are cited of interest in the art as disclosing transfer materials comprising supports, thermoplastic resin layers, intermediate layers and photosensitive resin layers. In Sato et al. '613, separation occurs between the thermoplastic resin layer and the intermediate layer. Hatakeyama '558 is cited of interest in the art as disclosing photosensitive transfer materials with thermoplastic

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layers which may comprise polyesters. Fujikura et al. is cited of interest in the art as disclosing transfer materials wherein the thermoplastic layer comprises polymers as set forth in instant claims 8 and 9. The prior art submitted by applicants has been considered.

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. There is no antecedent basis for the term "the photosensitive resin layer" in claim 14 since parent claim 1 does not set forth a photosensitive resin.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Mr. Schilling at telephone number (571) 272-1335.

RLSchilling:cdc

November 10, 2004

RICHARD L. SCHILLING
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 4100/752

